

REMARKS

In the Office action, the drawings were objected to as to claim 1; and claims 1-2, 5-6 and 8 were rejected as being unpatentable over Schwarz under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The drawings have been objected to for not showing a smaller interior wall diameter versus a larger interior wall diameter of the ferrule as recited in claim 1. The basis for the objection is not fully understood and is respectfully traversed. Figs. 25, 26 and 27 all show a ferrule with an interior wall that includes two cylindrical portions of different diameters, with the smaller diameter portion being near the front edge of the ferrule, and such structure is fully described in the specification at paragraphs 0076 and 0077. The difference between the two diameters is also labeled on the drawings, as D, D' and D". Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As to substantive matters, in rejecting claim 1 in view of Schwarz, the Office action refers to Figure 2 as showing a ferrule with two interior wall diameters. There appears to be no description of such structure in the written specification. Schwarz only refers to 'a bore 42' (col. 3, lines 44-48) that extends axially through the sleeve. Nothing more is said of the bore dimension. This would be a rather unusual way to describe the structure 42 if indeed it was intended to be a multi-diameter through bore. For example, at col. 3, lines 36-40 Schwarz specifically describes a reduced diameter bore for the nut 26, even though such structure was old and well known. Therefore, there is no apparent reason why someone of ordinary skill in the art when reading the Schwarz reference would be led to the concept of a ferrule with two interior diameters as presently claimed.

Although Applicants believe it is clear that Schwarz does not teach or suggest the two interior diameters, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the ferrule is a unitary member before and after pull-up. The Schwarz device breaks in two during pull-up and does not result in a ferrule with the two interior diameters as recited in claim 1. The claim has also been amended to delete recitations that are not needed for patentability of the claim. As to the statement in the Office action that it would be obvious to case harden the Schwarz sleeve 40, it should be noted that case hardening a ferrule or sleeve significantly alters its properties as to deformation. There is no basis to conclude that if the sleeve 40 were case hardened it would still work as intended,

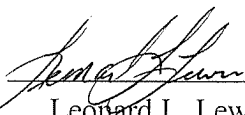
particularly in light of the point that the sleeve 40 is intended to break in two in a particular way. The statement that the sleeve has to be harder than the tube to bite into the tube provides no suggestion that the sleeve should be case hardened.

Allowed claim 4 has been re-written in independent form as indicated in the Office action.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are in proper condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 14, 2006

By: 
Leonard L. Lewis, Reg. No. 31,176
(216) 622-8683